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EUROPE

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1. GREECE: Rapprochement with Yugoslavia being delayed--US Charge Minor in Athens reports that he has been unsuccessful in his efforts to persuade the Greek Foreign Office to go ahead with the exchange of ministers with Yugoslavia. According to Minor, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Politis asserted that, while he understood the international importance of improved Greek-Yugoslav relations, it was virtually impossible to sell the idea to the Greek public so long as Yugoslav "provocations" regarding Greek Macedonia continued. In reply to Minor's suggestion that the Greek Government might proceed to exchange emissaries without making any further commitments, Politis asserted that this would also be unacceptable to the Greek public. Minor accordingly recommends that the US make no further efforts at this time in Greece to strengthen Greek-Yugoslav ties.

(CIA Comment: CIA agrees that the Greek Government would find it politically dangerous to proceed with establishment of closer ties with Yugoslavia so long as the Yugoslav Government continues its public references to the status of the small Slav-speaking minority in Greek Macedonia.)

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2. ITALY: Proposals to be made on Trieste--US Ambassador Dunn in Rome has learned that Italy will soon approach Yugoslavia with suggestions aimed at relieving current tensions regarding the Trieste issue and improving the atmosphere between the two countries. According to Dunn, the Italians will suggest: (a) the restoration of interzonal traffic and the return of seized interzonal vessels; (b) the

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cessation of repressive measures against Trieste Italians, including recruitment for forced labor; and (c) the protection of the property rights of Italians who have had to leave the Yugoslav zone of the Trieste territory. Dunn comments that the Italians would be willing to set aside the Trieste issue and attempt to settle other differences but only if satisfied that the gradual absorption of Zone B by Yugoslavia is halted. The Ambassador adds that Italian readiness to settle other outstanding Italian-Yugoslav problems will depend on the Yugoslav reactions to the forthcoming proposals, and expresses his conviction that Yugoslav rejection of the Italian approach would eventually cause Italy to bring the matter before an international forum.

(CIA Comment: The Yugoslavs would react favorably to the general idea of setting aside the Trieste issue temporarily but will reject the Italian allegation of Yugoslav repressive measures in Zone B. Yugoslavia is likely to counter with similar allegations regarding treatment of the Slovene minority under Italian jurisdiction and with charges that Zone A of the Trieste Territory is being absorbed by Italy.)